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The Alabama Librarian

OF MICHIGAN
JUL 2 1960
LIBRARY SCIENCE
LIBRARY

Blackshear, Bentley, Wilkinson, Templeton
Alabama Library Association
Officers, 1960-1961

July 1960

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 3

ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1960-61

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The Alabama Librarian

The Official Publication of the Alabama Library Association

VOLUME 11 JULY, 1960 NO. 3

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(Norman Cousins' address to be in later issue)

The Alabama Librarian is the official organ of the Alabama Library Association, and as such, carries news of the Association, its members, divisions, and the addresses of conference speakers, as well as general articles. Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Second-Class Postage paid at Montgomery, Alabama. Annual membership is $2.00 a year, $1.00 of which is for a year's subscription to *The Alabama Librarian*. Subscription for non-members is $1.50 a year. Membership dues should be sent to the Treasurer. The final date for submission of material to be published is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication.

Editor's Note: Forgive me for condensing each article.

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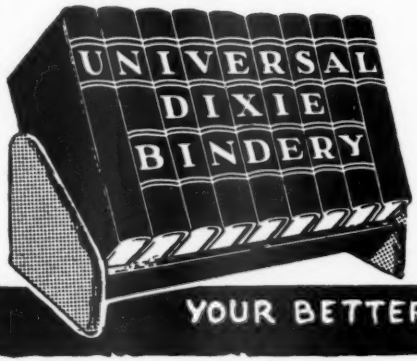

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YOUR BETTER BUY IN BINDING

Thoughts From The President

Reading guidance is more vital today than it has ever been. The day-by-day year-by-year accumulation of printed material requires, as never before, persons with ability and knowledge to guide and introduce readers to books that will do the most good for his or her own particular needs.

America has published and made available children and young people's books since the 1600's. Each year, more and more books have been marketed. In fact, for 1959, it has been difficult to secure accurate statistics of new titles published for children and youth.

The total of notable books have been many; the books which rate "good" are vast in number; the mediocre and poor are innumerable. All are available.

The American public will buy, read and circulate some of all of these. In the midst of this world of books, many of us, parents, teachers, and librarians are crying "What can we do to guide boys and girls to the best?" Other questions are: "How do we know which books are the best?" "Which books fit which children, as to reading and comprehension levels?"

The answer to the adults' cry is for more people with concerted efforts over continuous years to give good reading guidance. In my opinion some of the help needed in the how and which questions and the factor that would give immediate and direct results, is to make available pertinent bibliographies of the better literatures. To a librarian this sounds like old stuff, but if there is one who would like to know how accessible good lists are, just ask a teacher or parent if he or she has available a list of approved books from which reading is directed.

All good librarians cannot contact and help all readers but well compiled lists may be devised usable for others guiding readers to the best available.

Individuals will, in a life's span, consume only a small portion of the world's literature.

Let's strive to help them create good tastes early in life.

As president of the Alabama Library Association, I invite the librarians of this state, especially those who work with children and youth, to renew their faith in the cause of better reading guidance. Let us strive to make our work even more meaningful and far reaching in the hope that we are building a better tomorrow.

Martha Jule Blackshear

Note: Bibliography "War Between the States" for young people and children, by Martha Jule Blackshear to be in subsequent issue.

* * *

TENTATIVE DATE for the fall Executive Council meeting—Saturday, October 22, 1960, the weekend following SELA. Please save this day for meeting in Montgomery. The place and time is to be given at a later date.

Executive Council, 1960-1961

Abstract-Minutes

The Executive Council, Alabama Library Association met at 2:15 p.m., April 9, 1960 at the Battle House, Mobile. Members present were: Martha Jule Blackshear, Jane Bentley, Martha Wilkinson, Joe Templeton, Edna E. Brown, Lucile Ridings, John K. Cameron, Mary Nell Avary, Ethel Sanders, George Johnson, and Richard Covey, outgoing Treasurer.

Robert Severance was invited to report for the Planning Committee which resulted in Mrs. Brown making a motion that a special committee be appointed to contact state associations operating on a biennial basis and report at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

No action could be taken on the petition submitted by Mr. Noel Beddow for organization of a Friends and Trustees Division, since Mr. Covey stated the Treasurer's records did not show the required number of Association members among those signing. The petition was returned for re-submission.

The Council decided that the Scholarship Committee should be known as *Scholarship and Loan Committee.*

As the result of a suggestion by Mrs. Pauline Foster, Mr. Cameron moved that the President send several names of Association members to the Governor for his consideration when selecting members of the Executive Board of Alabama Public Library Service and that assent of members be obtained before their names are submitted. Seconded and approved.

Mrs. Elizabeth Beamguard has asked for an Alabama Library Association Committee for the Aging in connection with the White House Conference on that subject.

The Bibliographic Committee, Mrs. Fletcher Roberts, Chairman, would like to publish a list of Alabama authors since 1900. The Council agreed for the Committee to begin work on this publication whose format will be determined at a later date. The suggestion that this Committee remain intact until completion of the list was accepted. Seventy five dollars has been allocated for the Committee.

Proposed Committees for 1960-61 were submitted to the Council for review and suggestions.

The Proposed Budget for 1960-61 was reviewed and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTHA A. WILKINSON, *Secretary*

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS, 28 APRIL 1960 — ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Total Members		473
New Members in 1960		93
	Public Library	120
	Trustees	51
	School Library	94
	Special Library	63
	College & University	66
	Institutional	38
	Student	9
	Life	34

Birmingham — Five New Branch Libraries

A bond issue May 3 gave $625,000 to Birmingham Public Library system for five branches. Two new buildings, Avondale and West End, will replace Carnegie libraries erected in 1908. One at Slossfield will replace dilapidated quarters. Two branches will be in new suburban sections.

In 1953, a half million dollars enabled the library to build four branches and to renovate the Central Library. The new buildings will give the city 15 modern branch libraries.

President's Overview Report For 1959-1960 Alabama Library Association Convention 9 April 60

EDNA EARLE BROWN

The year 1959-60 has presented me with many challenges, pleasures, satisfactions and frustrations. The pleasures were the opportunities of working with members of the Association. I shall remember these contacts and feel richer for having had them.

Perhaps the greatest challenge was the threat to public library service and professional librarians of Alabama in the proposed change in the law pertaining to the then Public Library Service Division. The greatest satisfaction of the year came in having a part in overcoming this threat. As your representative I obtained a public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The fact that several objectionable features of the bill were changed and that a compromise was reached on the section dealing with qualifications of the director is testimonial to the hard work of numerous librarians and library-minded citizens. It is impossible to list here the many librarians who gave time and energy, but I want to publicly acknowledge the invaluable assistance rendered by Miss Rebecca Boozer, Mrs. J. E. Price and Mr. A. R. Tomlinson.

The frustrations were because I was not always able to adequately meet the challenges.

During 1959-60 suggestions were made of ways to alleviate the financial strain which the Association experiences. They ranged from increasing membership dues to reducing *The Alabama Librarian* to a mimeographed newsletter. I would hate to see this latter idea become a reality. I am looking forward to *The Alabama Librarian,* one of the best state association publications, becoming even better. I think it can win the first H. W. Wilson Company Library Periodical Award which will be presented at ALA 1961 conference.

Last year Mrs. Arsic pointed out several areas in which the Association needed to work harder. We still need to develop adequate libraries in every public school.

We need to keep before us a reminder that much progress in our public libraries has been possible only through the funds received from the Federal Library Services Act. Such funds may not always be available so we must work for local support. Several municipalities have built new libraries or renovated old buildings for library use this year—Auburn and Troy, to mention only two.

Mrs. Arsic also referred to the need for libraries in our institutions of higher learning to become stronger. The entire state is proud that Auburn University is assured an adequate library building and an increased budget that will allow them to strengthen their collection. This will strengthen libraries throughout the state through interlibrary loans.

Last year the possibility of workshops for trustees was mentioned. A series of such workshops will be conducted by the Alabama Public Library Service in the fall.

In the midst of these statements of progress it is necessary to insert a note of sadness. We are losing one of our outstanding special libraries this summer when Chemstrand moves its research facilities to North Carolina. We will certainly miss the personnel of the Research Library.

You will find in reports of committees suggestions and ideas which the incoming Executive Council will want to consider.

During the year I represented the Association at several functions. Among them were the open house at the Troy Public Library, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham Public Library,

a meeting of the Alabama Chapter, Special Libraries Association in Decatur, and the Alabama School Librarians Association luncheon in Birmingham during A. E. A. meeting.

In closing I thank you for your confidence and support. A special expression of gratitude goes to the Executive Council, the committee chairmen and members, and to everyone who labored to make this convention a success.

Executive Council, 1959-1960

Abstract-Minutes

The Executive Council, Alabama Library Association met at 5:00 p.m., April 7, 1960 in the Battle House, Mobile. Members present were Edna Earle Brown, Martha Jule Blackshear, James G. Baker, Richard Covey, John K. Cameron, Ethel Sanders, and O. T. Chambers.

Mr. Noel Beddow of Montgomery presented a petition to the Council asking for creation of a division within the Association for Friends and Trustees. Because of the absence of a quorum, the petition was referred to the new Council. The Treasurer was instructed to verify the signatures on the petition.

The Treasurer presented a preliminary report, indicating the Association's finances in good condition.

President Brown reported that committee chairmen were submitting reports in advance of deadline.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
O. T. CHAMBERS, *Secretary*

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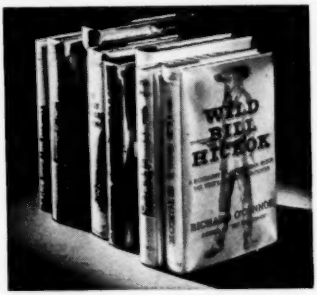

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Hudson Strode Honored With Literary Award

Hudson Strode was selected to receive the annual Literary Award of the Alabama Library Association "for his distinguished contribution to Alabama's literary culture." The award was in recognition of his historical writings and also for his inspiration and instruction to young writers who have become successful.

ALABAMA REPRESENTED AT A. L. A. IN MONTREAL

Miss Sybil Baird nominated for member of ALA Council.

Mrs. Marelle Pruitt nominated for Treasurer of American Association of Library Trustees.

Among others attending are: Mrs. Miriam Gerald, Miss Ethel Peerson, Mrs. Elizabeth Beamguard, Mrs. Bernice Youngblood, Miss Martha Blackshear, Mrs. Jane Bentley, Mrs. T. C. Crain, Mr. James McCain, Miss Catherine Green.

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SELA CONFERENCE, 13-15 OCTOBER, ASHEVILLE, N. C.

There is a gorgeous treat awaiting Southeastern Library Association members, and those who wish to become members. The meeting will be in Asheville the middle of October. Treat yourself to a fall vacation by leisurely driving over to Asheville taking in all the wondrous mountain scenery along the way—a photographer's dream.

The program will be worthwhile. One unusual feature will be a panel composed of exhibitors including old friends of Alabama librarians—Norman Berg, MacMillan Co., Atlanta; Joseph Ruzicka, Greensboro, N. C., representing the binders; Wes Summers, Jacksonville, speaking for suppliers.

Battery Park and Vanderbilt Hotels have been suggested. The Auditorium next to the Vanderbilt will be the place for meetings. Prepare yourself for a stimulating experience. Watch the library literature for details. See you there.

Ken
(John K. Cameron)

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TREASURER'S REPORT

June 1, 1959 to May 31, 1960

GENERAL FUND		
Balance on hand June 1, 1959		$ 482.23
RECEIPTS		
Dues and other	$1,459.00	
Convention exhibitors (includes 75.00 of 1959)	1,055.00	
Convention receipts	3,332.67	
	5,846.67	5,846.67
Total receipts		$6,328.90
DISBURSEMENTS		
President	$ 183.80	
Secretary	3.68	
Treasurer	54.08	
Alabama Librarian	550.00	
Stationery	21.84	
Membership in Affiliates		
ALA—Contributing Membership	25.00	
ALA—Exhibits Round Table	2.00	
SELA—Contributing Membership	25.00	
Joint Legislative Council	15.00	
Joint Committee on Librarianship	5.00	
Recruiting Committee	17.66	
Other Committees	97.18	
Scholarship Loan (temporary charge)	400.00	
Alabama Library Association Scholarship Fund	100.00	
Convention	4,043.44	
Miscellaneous	10.40	
Div. of College, Univ. & Spec. Libraries	51.87	
Division of School Libraries	50.00	5,655.95
Balance on hand May 31, 1960		$ 672.95
SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
Balance on hand June 1, 1959		$1,204.40
RECEIPTS		
Repayment on loans	$1,700.00	
Donations	454.94	
Alabama Library Association	100.00	
Interest	6.54	
	2,261.48	2,261.48
Total receipts		$3,465.88
DISBURSEMENTS		
Transfer to General Fund	$ 400.00	
Patricia Williams Loan	600.00	
James C. Chisum Loan	600.00	
Milton H. Crouch Loan	600.00	
First National Bank (to redeem check)	50.00	
	2,250.00	2,250.00
Balance on hand May 31, 1960		$1,215.88

RICHARD J. COVEY, Treasurer

The Dynamic Role of the Librarian

B. E. POWELL, *President,* American Library Association

In this sixth decade of the twentieth century, the need for information is greater than ever before. Now that man can move with the speed of sound and can communicate with persons almost anywhere anytime the world has grown small indeed. We need information about the rest of the world which until recently has not concerned us enough. Issues involving nations oceans from us, which half a century ago would have escaped our notice, may now be of major concern. Foreign and domestic issues can involve us in so many ways that we cannot afford to be uninformed about them and their implications.

The number of people needing access to information is greater than ever before. The United States population has increased 30 million since 1950. This need for information may be related also to an increased awareness of the useful information to be gained from print. People are more interested in this complicated world and circumstances that brought it to its present condition.

Never has there been more information to be disseminated. From 50 to 70 million books have been published around the world since the 15th century, 125 to 150 thousand are being added annually, a 100 thousand periodicals and 30 thousand newspapers, (8 thousand daily) are appearing regularly, and hundreds of thousands of government publications. This gives us an impression of the information that is available.

The printed page has always been a moving force in the affairs of man. Civilization began with the book.

Robert Downs' *Books That Changed The World,* and similar lists have identified some books that have had extraordinary impact upon our world. Paines' *Common Sense* hurried along the American Revolution, as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* did the Civil War. Michiavelli's *The Prince* has given comfort and advice to tyrants and dictators through the centuries. Darwin's *Origin of Species* marked the beginning of a new era. Homer and Shakespeare and the Bible have lived through the ages because they embodied truths eternal in human experience. Books bring men and countries more closely together than treaties. When we can break the barriers of language, illiteracy and trade, and open the channels of communication to permit all people access to the books of all nations we shall be far along the road to a peaceful world.

The library is the great institution for extending use of the book. In the late 1920's we began to look at the library objectively, as a product of such social and economic forces as free public schools, increased voting strength, increase in per capita wealth, rise in standard of living, and increased leisure time. We began to see the library as a dynamic institution responsive to these forces.

Library development has come more slowly in the South than elsewhere. Until a century ago those who determined policy in the South had their own books or money with which to buy them. Those who could not afford them were without them. The average Southerner was not a very bookish man, although many plantation houses contained good collections of books.

The South in the 1850's was moving ahead in education. It had provided much of the country's leadership. It was spending in 1860 three times as much per capita on education as the North. Although it had less than half the population of the North, it had more colleges, more professors, and almost as many college students; and the per capita (including the slave population) value of property was higher than that of New England. But half a century was spent in recovering from Civil war losses.

The awakening that came in the first quarter of this century has been accelerated since World War II. Great advances have been made in industrial development, research, the growth of research libraries, and in the number of students in the colleges and universities. In 20 years the value of goods manufactured in the South has increased from 9 to 70 billion dollars. Twenty-four thousand new industries have been established in the South. Between 1935 and 1955 the South led the nation in the growth of its research libraries. In Alabama there was a 200 per cent increase in the strength of its libraries; the Birmingham center ranked seventh in the nation in the percentage of increase. The number of staff members in research libraries in the South has more than doubled since 1946. The libraries of the South have made notable percentage increases since 1945, but when viewed against the backdrop of facilities available in other parts of the country, have a long way to go.

The library is essential to continuance of a democratic society. It is playing a critical role in our nation's destiny. Every thinking person needs the information, the background that only reading can give. The library's role is not a passive, but a dynamic one that places great responsibility in the hands of the librarian. As custodian of the intellectual arsenal of democracy, librarians must assume a role of leadership in safeguarding and advancing our democratic heritage.

Librarianship is no longer a casual sort of custodianship. Nor is it a profession that can afford to be introverted if it is to deal successfully with the increasing volume of books, the increasing population, and the heavier demand for information. Librarianship's leaders in each community must be combinations of city manager, chamber of commerce secretary, school superintendent, scholar, and library administrator.

As librarians we occupy a strategic position in the world today. We hold the keys to the accumulated knowledge of the world —the knowledge needed by scientists, statesmen, teachers, students. We must be prepared to use these keys promptly and effectively. Among the important qualifications needed in librarians today are several which may be classified under scholarship, professional spirit, and moral and personal qualifications.

There is no substitute for sound scholarship. The breadth and depth of knowledge that librarians could utilize is unlimited. Cotton des Houssayes said in 1730 that the librarian should be

> "above all, a learned and profound theologian, but to this qualification, which I shall call fundamental, should be united vast literary acquisitions, an exact and precise knowledge of all the arts and sciences, great facility of expression, and lastly, that exquisite politeness which conciliates the affection of his visitors while his merit secures their esteem."

The librarian should be learned in at least one special field and be familiar with several others. Knowledge of languages is as essential to him as contracts to the lawyer or anatomy to the doctor. Not all librarians must be scholars, but the profession if it is to cope with the problems posed by the increase in information, the increasing number of people wanting it, and the pressure for quick access to it requires more men of genius with imagination, vision and scholarly zeal for advancing librarianship.

A well known mathematician recently reported that if the Soviets lead in the space race it is because they have emphasized more than we the study of non-linear differential equations. More people are needed in librarianship who can push scholarship to the non-linear differential equation of excellence. We must be qualified to control the torrent of print, organize it and send it on to the consumer in quiet streams of information.

The magnitude of the task was brought home to us in the Hearings on the "Science and Technology Act of 1958" which reported that during 1958 the U. S. Government would spend between nine and ten billion dollars on research development, and 2 or 2.5 billions of that would be required

to make available information already recorded. You may have read also the shocking statement from industry—that when an experiment is not to cost over 100 thousand dollars it is less expensive to run it than to pay for a research to determine whether is has been done before.

A wholesome professional attitude directs us to secure the best training possible, then to employ this training in the best interests of the profession. More research needs to be conducted in all areas of librarianship: in reading habits and the effect of reading upon individuals; in the problems related to storage and retrieval of information; in the adaptation of electronics to library use, and into other similar problems that now interfere with the flow of information.

Every librarian should be the kind of librarian that will inspire others to choose librarianship as a career. A learned reference librarian, with the accumulated world's knowledge at his fingertips, can make his job fascinating, important and exciting. Many are the rewards in librarianship, but among the most heartwarming are those which come years later from students who remember you gratefully for contributions you made to their learning.

Lawrence Clark Powell, U.C.L.A.'s brilliant spokesman for the book, dedicated one of his books to the city librarian of South Pasadena who encouraged him to read when he was a boy. He does not know if she ever read a book, but her understanding made a lasting impression upon him. *The University Magazine* of the University of Alabama wrote of that institution's librarian in 1884, "Her name will in after days excite the sweetest of all college day memories in the minds and hearts of us all." Amelia Gorgas was librarian for 26 years, and now the central library of the University bears her name.

Good advice still is Emerson's reminder to young men in 1837 that those inclined to accept the views of Cicero, Locke and Bacon should remember that these men were only young men in libraries when they wrote.

More people with advanced degrees in the sciences, arts and languages must be drawn into the profession. And all librarians should support with their membership their professional associations. Whatever association your special library interests dictate that you join, you cannot make your maximum contribution to librarianship without affiliation with ALA. The influence of the association is felt around the globe in projects operated under our direction, and in our representatives sent abroad by government agencies, foundations and educational associations.

You will be proud to know that about 50 librarians participated last week in the White House Conference on Children and Youth. The Library Services Act was nurtured by the association. On Tuesday I attended hearings in Washington which we hope will lead to an extension of the LSA for five more years.

The human qualities of character and personality are as essential to librarians as to members of any other profession. Librarians must be dedicated to their profession and to the service of others; they must have integrity and must be prepared to stand their ground when the freedom of borrowers to read books to which they have a perfect right is jeopardized.

The library must take the lead in giving democratic direction to adult education—to continuing education. The most effective is in sound book selection and in making known to readers the availability of good books. The librarian can be a dynamic force in encouraging his community to be a reading and thinking community.

Positive personalities are needed in the library profession. Initiative and original views are necessary to progress. Librarians must have a passion for encouraging the love of books and reading: they should be aggressive community leaders, the kind of leaders who can enlist the assistance of men and women in other professions in support of libraries and library service.

The Fear Of Books

ARCHIE L. MCNEAL, *Director,* University of Miami Libraries

I acknowledge my indebtedness of Holbrook Jackson[1] for the title for this address.

The fear of books is not fear of the book itself, but rather, a fear of its possible effect on the reader, or, as McKeon says in his *Freedom to Read*: "arguments for censorship center on the consequences of books, rather than on their contents."[2] There is little methodological and objective knowledge of the effects of book-reading on the individual. Some studies have been made, such as Waples and others on "What Reading Does to People."[3]

"The pressures for censorship arise from the practical problems characteristic of periods of crisis and change; but the arguments for censorship normally turn, not on inquiry into those problems and into means of solving them, but on the interrelated dangers of immorality, treason, irreligion and error."[2] The definition of these factors has changed from one age to another. In ancient Greece, censorship focused sometimes on impiety . . ., immorality, and treason, but was in most cases concerned with political dangers. Book burning and banishment of the individual were common practices for offenders. Similar action was characteristic of ancient Rome with emphasis on the political context of moral dangers . . ."[2]

With the development of Christianity, there was more religious emphasis. As Milton says: "By this time the Emperours were become Christians, whose discipline in this point I do not find to have been more severe than what was formerly in practice . . ."[4]

Later the Popes of Rome "extended their dominion over men's eyes, as they had before over their judgments, burning and prohibiting to be read what they fancied not . . ."[4] I like Milton's phrase "as if S. *Peter* has bequeath'd them the keys of the Presse also out of Paridise."[4] Even today it seems that the censor acts as if with divine authority, to him alone delegated.

The printing press brought the statement by the Editor in the *Retrospective Review* in 1820: "Never were books so commonly dispersed — so multifariously read." Even then there was concern over the engulfing flood of print. Since the first amendment to the Constitution of the U. S. in 1791, we have been guaranteed freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

During World War II a form of censorship was in evidence. Every letter was read by someone before it could leave some of the outposts.

What does it take to be a censor? Is it egotism, missionary zeal, sincere concern over real or imagined dangers? It could be any of these, or some combination. Whatever the cause, the action starts with an individual who recognizes the censorable material, and sets out to do something about it, often without concern for legal procedures. It is amazing how few censors are contaminated by the reading from which they seek to protect the rest of us!

Many methods are used by the would-be censor in his effort to abridge the freedom to read which our Constitution guarantees. One of the more effective methods has been through the Post Office Department. Statutes make it a criminal offense to send obscene matter through the mail. The definition of what constitutes obscenity has been a continuing problem.

The Select Committee of the House of Representatives on Current Pornographic Materials, the Gathings Committee, " . . . expresses approval of the many splendid groups that devote their efforts toward eliminating the flood of pornographic material."[5] They recognized the Post Office was the most readily available media of censorship and asked for increased powers there. They urged increased activity by private groups to demand removal, under threat of boycott of books and magazines considered morally objectionable.[2]

During the past year the Granahan Committee, a House sub-committee of the Committee on Postal Operations proposed the formation of citizens' groups in towns and cities to exert pressure on newsstands, booksellers and others to get rid of objectionable material. Such economic boycotts are extra-legal and it seems questionable that a committee of our national legislative body should suggest it, although as noted above, the Gathings Committee had also reached this solution.

In February, the Granahan Committee held hearings, and Dan Lacy who is also a member of the A.L.A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom, appeared for the American Book Publishers Council. The Committee proposed that publishers adopt a code. To quote briefly from Mr. Lacy's comments:

"In the case of books . . . it is not the publisher, but the *author* whose ideas may be suppressed or whose freedom of expression may be limited. It is not the publisher, but the *citizen* whose freedom to read is curtailed."

"It would mean . . . that the freedom to write and the freedom to read—freedoms which the Constitution forbids even the Congress of the United States itself to abridge—would be committed into the hands of a private committee in whose selection the people would have no voice and from whose judgments they would have no appeal."[6]

The American Library Association has not been invited to testify by the Granahan Committee, but is prepared to do so.

Many books would have seldom attracted an audience had they not been restricted—advertised unintentionally by well intended censors. As a nation, we are inclined often as Pandora, to lift the lid just to see what is forbidden. In our libraries, an artificial demand is created for books which becomes the subject of censorial action.

This brings me to the question of the librarian as censor. We are exercising a form of censorship when we perform the task of book-selection. The difference is well stated by Lester Asheim in his article "Not Censorship, but Selection": " . . . the selector's approach is positive, while that of the censor is negative . . . the selector looks for values, for strengths, for virtues, which will overshadow minor objections. For the censor, the important thing is to find reasons to reject the book."[7]

We cannot afford to overlook the Fiske Report,[8] a study of a selected group of school and public libraries in California. Miss Fiske found that librarians themselves were often exercising censorship in their selection practices. She also examines reaction to pressures.

The tendency to restriction on the part of librarians was noted before the Fiske study by Luther Evans, then Librarian of Congress, in an address at Florida State University:

". . . there probably has been an enormous amount of self discipline on the part of local librarians to keep certain things out of their collection for fear that there would be difficulty if they had them in their collections . . . probable that a great deal of censorship is practiced on the sly . . ."[9]

Miss Fiske points out "The most frequently discussed administrative aid for problems of controversiality is the written book selection policy."

The A.L.A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom at the Midwinter meeting in January recommended that all appropriate A.L.A. Divisions develop model book-selection policy statements.

As the Fiske report states, most librarians have a generalized concept of the function of a library in a free society. Then a book is attacked. We are likely to defend the book, rather than a principle. If we have definite policies governing book selection we are in a stronger position to reply. Let me turn again to Luther Evans:

"Another important thing that librarians have done to defend themselves in censorship battles is to have their governing boards develop a statement of acquisitions policy."[9]

Miss Fiske outlined four approaches which were found among the respondents in her study:

The 'rational approach,' the most frequent. "The affirmative method. . . . If on the

basis of the judgment of other librarians or of reviewers they respect, a book appears to be 'objective' or have a claim to 'esthetic validity,' they are likely to purchase it and to defend its presence in the collection."[8]

The 'casual approach' ". . . also relates to the selection process . . . people who say 'We will have complaints as long as we have libraries.' . . . complaints go in cycles . . ."

The 'stand - up - and - be - counted approach' ". . . resembles the technique of fighting fire with fire: 'If you stand right up to people like that, they quiet down.' . . . People who advocate a firm approach under such circumstances believe the air is cleared if the overall function of the library is explained now and then . . ."

Finally, 'preventive approach': "Not many of the librarians who participated in this study have had the opportunity, or created an opportunity, to express their philosophy of book selection publicly. . . . As they moved out from under the attack which precipitated their public statements, they became increasingly convinced that statements of principle may go far toward preventing future eruptions, providing that such pronouncements are compatible with their practices."

We can find even more disturbing material in a symposium held at the University of California July 10-12, 1958, *The Climate of Book Selection.*[10] This is a study of social influences on school and public libraries. Among those presenting papers were Max Lerner, J. W. Albig, Ralph Tyler and Harold Lasswell, Marjorie F. Fiske, and Talcott Parsons.

Parsons defines librarianship as an "auxiliary" profession in a "relatively weak and unbuttressed position." ". . . Librarians (he says) are a vulnerable group because, given the nature of their functions . . . inherently exposed to the blasts of some of the very important storms of symbolic disturbance . . . which blows through a society like our own."[10]

What can be done, and what should be our position in the light of present information? First, it is important that we know what has been learned through studies such as the Fiske investigation and the symposium *The Climate of Book Selection.*

Second, well-defined book selection policies should be a part of every library's administrative organization.

Third, there is need for a strong committee in each state organization, closely allied with the A. L. A. Committee on Intellectual Freedom.

Finally, I believe our Library Schools have a definite responsibility to give more attention to the problems of censorship and practical ways of meeting such challenges.

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[1] Jackson, Holbrook. *The Fear of Books.* Scribner's, 1932.

[2] McKeon, Richard, Morton, Robert K., and Gellhorn, Walter. *The Freedom to Read.* Bowker, 1957.

[3] Waples, Douglas, *et al, What Reading Does to People,* Univ. of Chicago Press, 1940.

[4] Milton, John. *Areopagitica.* (ed. by John A. Hales). London, Oxford, 1875.

[5] Larrabee, Eric. "Morality and Obscenity" in *Freedom of Book Selection* ed. by Frederic J. Mosher, Chicago: ALA, 1954.

[6] Advance copy of statement on behalf of the American Book Publishers Council by Dan Lacy to the House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Postal Operations.

[7] Asheim, Lester. "Not Censorship, but Selection" in *Freedom of Book Selection,* ed. by Frederic J. Mosher, Chicago: ALA, 1954.

[8] Fiske, Marjorie. *Book Selection and Censorship.* Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press, 1959.

[9] Luther Evans "The Challenge of Censorship: in *Challenges to Librarianship,* ed. by Louis Shores, Tallahassee, F.S.U., 1953.

[10] California. University, School of Librarianship. *The Climate of Book Selection,* ed. by J. Periam Danton. Berkeley, 1959.

"Hey Joe!"

IT'S THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR MODERN LIBRARY SERVICE

HOYT R. GALVIN
Director, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

It is a pleasure to return to Alabama. I had interesting experiences during my four years in the state. My assignment was to create and develop a regional library system to serve the employees of T.V.A. and the general public in Jackson, Madison, and Marshall Counties. One of the first regional library attempts in the U. S.

Among other activities, I provided library service to men working in 24 reservoir clearance crews. These were crews of 60 men cutting trees out of the area which was to be flooded by Guntersville Dam. Each crew had a tool box where a tool sharpener stayed. We had a book box attached to each tool box with about 100 books, and the tool sharpener checked out the books. If you are now employing any of these men, I hope their interest in books and libraries has improved.

Monthly, I visited the 24 tool boxes and changed the books. The crew foreman located the tool boxes where the trees were rather than convenient to so-called roads. After getting as close as possible to the tool box with the little bookmobile, I would strap a box of books to my back and hike out over the hills, crossing over log bridges, etc., until I reached the tool box.

We also had book collections deposited in grocery stores where I made monthly stops. We gave service directly from the bookmobile, and we refurbished the book collections in the stores. There was an author by the name of Zane Grey who was quite popular, if this gives you any idea of the quality of reading we were dispensing.

This is my second library convention in Mobile. The other one was in the 1930's. At that meeting we were quite enthusiastic about prospects for a new state library agency.

Mobile today has more people, more factories, more overpasses and underpasses than it had twenty years ago. Like other American cities, Mobile has its share of slums and degradation. One of the difficult questions is how we measure these plus and minus factors of our communities. Physicians have standards for pronouncing our state of health. Public health departments have standards for the health of our communities. Still, a good community is something more than a physically healthy one. What is it? We can rank our cities according to the population; by per capita income; but few have attempted to evaluate the overall 'goodness' of our communities as places to live.

Mobile and Alabama's greatest resource is the people. Are we developing this greatest resource to its fullest potential?

I have a clipping which reminds me of the nature of the American masses. It is a portion of a syndicated newspaper column by Robert Roark written in 1948. Listen to his word picture:

"We must still remember that the American voting public chews gum and chaws tobacker. It loves a cat fight and it loves a dog fight and it loves a fist fight. It drinks beer and watches soap operas and leers at Dagmar and bets on hoss races and shoots crap and has dirty fingernails and drinks licker and cusses and watches rasslin' on TV. It goes to church and pays taxes and sends its children to school, too, but it has a woefully short memory for facts and a long leash on emotion. It cries easy and believes what it hears from the last man to say it. It sometimes buys loudness of voice over logic, and it admires the juke box more than the Philharmonic . . ."

The characteristics which Roark so colorfully describes are a luxury of careless development of human resources we can no longer afford if we are to prosper—if we are to survive.

We are moving from an agrarian to an industrial economy. Henry Grady's description of Georgia and the South no longer applies. He described the funeral by saying the only thing the South supplied was the corpse and the hole in the ground. Instead, we are in the midst of a social and economic revolution, but do many people realize it? We must establish environments to develop the people.

The factors which make a community a good place to live were studied over a long period of years by one of America's greatest sociological authorities, the late Edward L. Thorndike. He discussed these factors in two books: *Your City,* and *144 Smaller Cities.* Thorndike applied various criteria which make a city a good place to live to 310 American cities.

According to Thorndike, the two most important factors in judging the desirability of any community are:

1. The percentage of the population graduating from the local publically supported democratic high schools, and
2. The circulation per capita and the tax support per capita for public library service.

He stressed that a good and well supported public library service is the sign of a progressive, intelligent community. Attendance at school is generally compulsory, but the use of a public library is voluntary and indicative of a thoughtful citizenship.

Few people realize the tremendous asset which a good library is to the business and commercial progress. It is the measure of the ambitions, the cultural and intellectual interests, and the desire for more understanding citizenship, regardless of economic or political status. The library has the ideas and information, the clay, if you please, from which a community can mold its greatest resource.

Librarians and library board members cannot do the job alone. It is a community responsibility. I say, Hey, Joe! Hey, Jane! all you Joes and Janes, you have a responsibility to establish, maintain, and utilize the public library as the most effective and most economical educational institution available to mankind for the development of our greatest resource—the people. I fear Joe didn't hear me call: perhaps I didn't call him loud enough, for as Roark said, Joe sometimes buys loudness of voice over logic. Too, Joe is busy making a buck.

How can we get the message to him? Alabama has had a dramatic history of library development. Thomas M. Owen led the nation in the establishment of your Department of Archives and History in 1901. In 1904, he led in the establishment of the Alabama Library Association, and served as your President for 16 years. Montgomery was the third city in the nation to secure a Carnegie grant for a public library building. The Association which he headed was one with social prestige. At the first meeting in Montgomery, 50 of the state's leaders were present, including only five librarians. Later meetings might be called "roving meetings" as one meeting would move from town to town for different parts of the program. Such dramatic actions stirred interest with the Joes and Janes of the early 1900's.

Credit to the past is honorable, but resting on past laurels will not solve problems of the present and future. So, how do we get Joe's attention?

My neighbor, Charlie Cullen, is a professional public speaker and sales engineer. One of his most effective speeches is built around the word, EASY. The 'E' is for "enthusiasm." We must be enthusiastic about library service. The 'A' emphasizes "audacity." The lack of audacity among librarians may be our greatest failing. If we are to convince Joe and Jane of the importance of libraries and secure their leadership, we must not be timid. His 'S' stands for "showmanship." Librarians must utilize all the showmanship possible. Finally, the 'Y' is "Youmanship"—think of library service

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The Women in Shakespeare's Life was the topic of Mrs. Pat Nicholson's impressively delivered monologue. The famous women characters from Shakespeare's plays lived as their words and personalities were portrayed by Mrs. Nicholson. The real women in Shakespeare's life were interpreted not only by occasional facts but also by comparison with his characters. One of the many soliloquies she recited in full was the "quality of mercy" (Merchant of Venice, Act IV, Scene I, lines ....):

"The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice bless'd:
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes . . .
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's,
When mercy seasons justice . . ."

"Hey Joe!"
(Continued From Page 65)

from the user's point of view. What do you need? What do you want your library to provide?

The public library building should provide a compelling invitation to enter, read, look, listen, and learn. Even a single step from the sidewalk into the building is a psychological barrier to the invitation to enter. Retail merchants learned years ago that a successful store must avoid steps, that display windows are needed to catch the attention; and that a funnel like entrance brought people into the store. Libraries are merchandising educational materials — the ideas and information needed to weave the fibre of community life.

For showmanship, the library must be located where all the people will pass its doors frequently in the normal pursuit of their day-to-day activities. This can mean only one location—in the heart of the downtown business district.

Be not timid. Have the audacity to admit it will cost from one-fourth to one-half as much annually to operate the library as to construct it, and it will cost almost as much to operate an idle library as a busy one. Since the success of a library can only be measured by its use, the location must be where maximum use is possible. There is no substitute for locating a branch library in or adjacent to a shopping center.

In selling of the library idea, sell librarianship as the most exciting business of matching people and ideas.

Successful library development belongs to the Joes and Janes, but we must recruit them to leadership. Don't let us get so bogged down with card 'slipping' and filing that we forget that the big job is selling libraries for the development of our greatest resource—the people.

Russian Libraries

CHARLOTTE FORGEY CHESNUT, *Chief*, ABMA Technical Documents Library

In August 1959, I was one of twenty-five librarians who spent two weeks visiting Russian libraries and sight-seeing. Representing all types of libraries from various sections of the U. S., we went as tourists, not as a group sponsored by the U. S. Government. We went to talk to the librarians, to see them at work, and to see their great collections. We were not studying the political situation in Russia or the part the librarians play in the organization of the government.

The librarians were friendly and eager to talk to us. In this report which will be on a personal level, I am not going to give you many figures and statistics but will talk briefly about six libraries we visited.

Russian libraries fall into two categories: Mass libraries and Special libraries. The mass libraries include general libraries which serve all the people — a few examples: Lenin Library in Moscow, Leningrad Public, other adults and children's libraries, collective farm libraries, and trade-union libraries. The Special Libraries include systems of science and technical libraries under government agencies, libraries of educational establishments, university libraries, libraries of semi-technical schools, special libraries in the humanities, and the Academy of Sciences network of libraries.

The first library we visited was the Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library built in 1795 as the Imperial Public Library. It was opened for service in 1814 and in 1932 it received the present name. In this library, open to all USSR citizens, are 12 million books and manuscripts, three million copies of journals and periodicals, and a collection of newspapers. The library subscribes to many foreign books and periodicals and has an exchange with sixty-six countries. A council of 28 specialists approves the purchase of books requested by the readers. The staff is composed of 1200 employees with specialists in various fields of learning. On a tour of the buildings we were told that the main building was damaged during World War II and that many of the treasures were sent away for safe keeping during the ninety-day siege of Leningrad. Though damaged by water and often cold, the library was kept open all this time, and Fannie, our translator, lived there during the war.

The second library we visited in Leningrad was the Academy of Sciences Library. The director greeted us at the door, wished us a pleasant visit in Leningrad, and told us that we were the first large group of American librarians to visit his library.

This library which is one of the oldest of the country is older than the Academy itself. It was founded by the order of Peter the Great in 1714 (houses his personal library) and in 1725 it became a part of the Academy. The Academy has at least 200 libraries scattered all over the country.

At first the collection consisted of only 2.5 thousand books but now there are 10 million. The books are housed in eleven levels and are filed according to size and date received. We saw the many card catalogs: The official general alphabetical union catalog, the readers' catalog, the official classified catalog, and ten special catalogs.

We went from Leningrad to Moscow by jet and were given a cordial reception by the twenty librarians who met us at the airport. The first library we visited in Moscow was the Lenin State. This library was opened in 1862 and now has a collection of 20 million volumes. The main purpose of this library is to serve all the people of the Soviet Union. Students from the 7th Class up can use the library. When we asked about checking out a book this was said, "Oh, you call for a book and come back for it. Of course, you may have to wait four or five days before you come. You know you get nervous if you stand and

wait." Their rare book collection could well be the envy of any great library with its incunabula. We saw John Smith's book about Virginia, first edition of John Milton, and Poor Richard's Almanac in Russian.

Next we visited the University of Moscow Library which is housed in the new building in Lenin Hills. The library was founded 200 years ago and now has a total of 5.5 million volumes. The library has two parts: The main one in Lenin Square has about 3 million volumes in the humanities, and the new building built in 1953 has 2 million volumes in the science fields.

The director talked to us through the translator and we were all introduced by name, library, and type of work. When the translator introduced me, she could not find the Russian word for Ballistic Missile. The director laughed and said in English, "Let's say she works for sputnik."

All-Union Library of Foreign Literature was the next library we were privileged to visit. This library founded in 1921 now has 1.2 million books and 1.3 million newspapers and journals. There is material in 82 foreign languages, and one-third of the books are in English. The library publishes a union catalog of all foreign books received in the libraries in the Soviet Union. At the present time there are 320 workers in the library. All have higher education and each knows three or four languages. Classes have been organized to help the readers with languages, and the library has courses for the improvement of those who join the staff.

The All Union Institute for Scientific and Technical Information of the USSR Academy (VINITI) was the last place we visited. This specialized scientific research establishment provides scientists and technicians with exhaustive information on all the achievements in science and technology throughout the world. The main publications of the Institute are the abstracting journals issued in thirteen subject areas.

Besides publishing the Abstracts Journal the Institute prepares selective information on various subjects and publishes "Express Information" bulletins containing abstracts on the more vital scientific and technological problems. The bulletins are issued in a number of series such as Automatic Control of Production Processes and Computers. The bulletins come out in 48 issues per year.

The Institute has been conducting work in the fields of terminology and lexicography. In 1955 two English-Russian and Russian-English Dictionaries on Nuclear Physics and Engineering were published by the Institute for the Atoms-for-Peace Conference held in Geneva that year.

At the present time 30 countries subscribe to the VINITI (the Russian abbreviation) Publications. The Institute peruses literature in 68 languages arriving from 88 countries. In 1957 in addition to the Soviet literature, the Institute received 12,250 titles of foreign periodicals. VINITI exchanges scientific publications with 580 organizations of 46 countries.

From our limited inspection of Russian libraries it was impossible to learn a great deal about their library philosophy, processes, and methods, but we could observe the enthusiasm and interest of the librarians in their work. It was an inspiration to talk to the Russian librarians and to exchange ideas which we hope will foster a better library understanding between the U. S. and Russia.

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MOBILE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADOPTS NEW CLASSIFICATION PAY PLAN

An Assistant Director's position has been established. One position is to be filled for Librarian I—professional librarian, $4200 to $4800. The grade level has been improved for four clerks. Pay raises are indicated for a dozen employees.

The Rewards of Writing For Children

Mrs. Dorothea J. Snow, writer and illustrator of children's books, was guest speaker of the Alabama School Librarians at the convention in Mobile. Her topic was "The Rewards of Writing for Children," which, to her, are many and varied.

A native Alabamian, Mrs. Snow said perhaps the greatest reward was the feeling of satisfaction in doing creative work, of seeing a germ of an idea grow in her mind and on paper until, at long last, it appears between the covers of a book.

While telling of some of her experiences in getting started in the field of children's literature, she told of other rewards, such as the glow that comes in bringing pleasure to others, as the many fan letters she receives from boys and girls all over the country, visibly attest. One of these, from a fan in California, she, read, as well as two reviews of her mountain folk tales, in which the reviewers also seemed to take pleasure.

Writing for children adds zest to many other phases of her life, she said, to everyday things such as reading newspapers. "I never know when a small item tucked down in one corner of a page may contain the germ of an idea for another book, or, at least, an incident for one." On trips she is constantly on the lookout for some bit of local lore, color, or turn of speech. "My trip to Mobile has a double-barreled purpose," she confided, "as I have long wanted to set a juvenile mystery in this historically fascinating city and so I am spending my spare moments while here browsing about among the interesting streets, looking at beautiful old buildings and homes, and absorbing as much local color as I can."

The monetary reward is also a factor. She told of an English writer who returned from a visit to this country saying, "The writer in America is respected . . . until his neighbors find out how much money he makes!" This, like most generalities, is only half true. While few writers make the fabulous sums one hears about, even fewer of them ever go hungry.

"After all, what greater reward can one expect in life than to be able to do the work he or she likes best and get paid an adequate living wage for it?"

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DR. SHIRLEY STEPHENSON AND MRS. GRETCHEN SCHENK TO HEAD RESOURCE PANEL

Workshop for community librarians August 15-18, University of Alabama. Sponsored by Alabama Public Library Service in cooperation with the University. Dr. Stephenson, member of LSU School of Library Science and Mrs. Schenk, Library Consultant will lead the Resource Panel.

• • •

Stimulating Summer Reading

Ideas to Adapt or to Start a Chain Reaction to New Ideas

Region-Wide Summer Reading Program

"Acceptable reading level" important.

Libraries and bookmobiles sponsor same plan.

Young people encouraged to register.

Librarians keep records.

Certificates earned by:

Boys and girls who have completed the third grade or higher who read four books of biography, four books of fiction, and four books of non-fiction.

Children who have completed the first and second grades who read twelve books.

Each certificate will state the number of books read by the recipient. Awards for most books read presented to:

A boy and a girl—grades below seventh.

A boy and a girl—grades above sixth.

"Reading Parties" last week in August.

Choctawhatchee Regional Library — A. Doughtie.

• • •

Blossoms on the Apple Tree—Apples, too.

The child adds a blossom to the tree for each book read up to 15. After 15, the child adds an apple for every two books read.

Children who finished second through sixth grades.

Four prizes are given.

Party for participants before school opens.

Simultaneous programs in children's Department and Branches.

Carnegie Library—J. Chisum.

• • •

Travel Stickers on a Suitcase

(Suitcase poster on bulletin board.)

Details similar to Apple Tree.

Bookworm Segments

Details similar to Apple Tree.

Carnegie Library (past programs) — J. Chisum.

Puppet Shows

Stage constructed by children.

Dolls representing book characters made by children (and their mothers).

Old favorites and new stories come alive as children act out plots with puppets.

Luverne Public Library—Mrs. Stone.

• • •

Circulating Toys

(Arrangement with local toy stores).

Attracts the very young.

Children check out a toy AND a book.

Luverne Public Library—Mrs. Stone.

• • •

Story Hour

Saturday mornings at ten.

Girl Scouts tell the stories.

Short movie precedes story hour.

(Films: *The Little Red Hen, The Ugly Duckling,* and many others may be borrowed from Alabama Public Library Service, Montgomery).

Opp Public Library—B. Caston.

• • •

Reading Clubs for Young People

Bookmobiles and Branches sponsor.

Children who finished third grade or above.

Twelve books required.

Diplomas awarded beginning of school.

Coosa Valley Regional Library—M. Goodrich.

• • •

Reading Program for Home Demonstration Clubs

Bookmobiles and Branches.

Four books required.

Achievement Day in October.

"Achievement Awards" earned.

Shelby and St. Clair Counties

Coosa Valley Regional Library—M. Goodrich.

• • •

Get On the Library Speedway

"Set New Records with Books".

Appropriate circulars of directions distributed.

Public library and branches same plan.

Second through eighth grades.

Membership cards.

Members keep records, signed by parents.

Librarians will suggest suitable level books.

Books previously read not counted.

Only two books by same author.

"Roar into action . . ." Posters in library.

5 books starts car in *Green Flag Race.*

10 books advances car to *Red and White Flag Race.*

15 books . . . to *Blue and Gold Flag Race.*

20 books . . . arrives *Finish Flag Race.*

Trophies awarded end of summer:

Reading club diploma for 10 books read.

A gold star added for 15 books. Two gold stars for 20.

Birmingham Public Library—M. Miller.

• • •

Explorers' Reading Club

"Your Compass Points to Treasure".

(Similar program to "Get on the Library Speedway).

"Explore Alabama".

5 books places a member's compass at Fort Morgan.

10 books advances compass to Battle of Horseshoe Bend Park.

15 books to Mt. Cheaha, highest mountain.

20 books, the explorer arrives at Russell Cave, his destination.

Birmingham Public Library—M. Miller.

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Implementation of New A. L. A. Standards For School Libraries

Ruth J. Holliman

The new ALA Standards will be the topic of discussion at regional work conferences to be held this fall by the Alabama School Librarians' Association. Miss Virginia McJenkin, Southeastern States Chairman, Implementation of the New ALA Standards, will be principal speaker. Tentative plans are to have two one-day conferences—one for the southern region of the state and one for the northern region.

The purpose of these meetings will be to help school librarians gain a better understanding of the new standards so that they can interpret them to their administrators, teachers, and parents. ASLA members will receive specific information concerning these meetings.

"The Rising South"

57th Annual Convention, Alabama Library Association

Alice M. Doughtie

There's nothing like early planning to make any event successful. Here are some plans. The meeting will be in Tuscaloosa, April 13-15, 1961. According to Martha Jule Blackshear the convention will be a festive, colorful, gay occasion.

The theme, "The Rising South", is most fitting to celebrate the Civil War centennial. In keeping with the idea of leaving the past behind and looking toward the future, we hope to bring *Gone With the Wind* to the local theatre. This will give Southerners a last look at the "Old South", and a portion of the receipts will go to the scholarship and loan fund. Hotel Stafford will be headquarters. (See committees).

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MRS. EMMA C. HARRIS, Mobile Public Library

It is interesting that Booksellers state that the sale of books has increased in the past year to an unprecedented degree; with nonfiction in the lead, and juvenile literature maintaining high standards and sales.

Fundaburk, Emma Lila. *Alabama Parade*: This unusual book has been previously reviewed, but the new style and intensive research merit especial attention. The author possesses a high degree of knowledge of Alabama history. The book may be classed as neither prose nor poetry. One article is in Petrarchan verse, one in Shakespearian, and one in Spencerian; some in prose. A reader will be better versed in Alabama history when the book is completed. Privately printed.

Hentoff, Nat and Albert McCarthy. *Jazz*. Interest has been revived in what once was almost a subject of ridicule. This book gives jazz history as it has developed from the ranks to be almost classed as a "general" in musical circles.

Hubbard, Alice H. *This Land of Ours*: Community and Conservation Projects for Citizens. Information on what the private citizen has done and what groups can do to conserve the resources of our country. The scope is widely distributed; mention is made of a community in Southeast Alabama which accomplished much good and which had its beginnings in the Matron's Club; how a garden club of Lowndesboro with eleven members started a drive for the benefit of the community. There are practical ideas that can be developed as every one should be interested in conservation. Macmillan—$4.95.

Campbell, William March. *Ninety-Nine Fables*, edited by William T. Going. These are as usual in the brilliant style of the author, one of Alabama's well-known writers. He uses animals and mythical counties. Some of the fables have a definite moral, others are more obtuse. The author is a past master of the art of brevity; his approach is direct in a charming and humorous manner. The editor, formerly in the faculty of the University of Alabama, gives the editorship a scholarly touch. The drawings of Richard Brough well illustrate the subject. The book is of prime interest to Mobile, as the author lived here for several years.

Mathis, Roger. *All for What?* The author, a student at Auburn, has written the spring musical show that was presented at the Village Fair. He is a Mobilian, and is well-known in the Mobile Theater Guild. He had the lead in *Lord Red Patrick*, and has taken parts in other plays and has sung in the chorus. He has written a typical college play with humor of the day; the songs and dances are timely and pleasing.

Oden, Kenneth L. The author of *Yeah, Brave Coward* is writing what may be styled a sequel. He is the hero of many jet flights, has used the helicopter for various purposes, was a member of the Mosquito Suicide Squad, and has suffered the dangers of a forced landing with a crippled plane. But the sequel takes him into quite unknown territory. He is writing of the social life of the wives of the men at the base. Although he claims all the incidents are true and that friend and foe may recognize themselves there is a strong vein of real American humor. As is usual with those who have accomplished deeds of heroism, he minimizes many such actions. His sense of humor is shown in the statement that "resemblances to persons dead or alive is purely intentional." But there is no sting in his humor. Captain Oden has been in the postal department at Craig Field the past 14 months. He is a member of the Toastmasters Club and the Armed Forces Writers Club.

Patrick, W. R. and R. E. Amache, respectively Head and Associate Head of the English Department at Auburn are contributing books in the American Author series. Their fields are wide apart in literary contributions: Dr. Patrick will write as the humorist Ring Lardner and Dr. Amache will write as Benjamin Franklin. The books are

planned to aid in teaching literature in high schools and colleges. Since both authors are experts in their fields, the public can expect to benefit from their works.

Sheehan, Elizabeth Winston. The author has just published in book form a part of her epic poem, *Bright in Mosaic,* in memory of her husband, Will T. Sheehan, and his friends of "The Thirteen." It deals with the early history of Alabama, and is adapted to both adult and juveniles. It is well illustrated and attractively bound. The booklet is entitled *Battle at the Bend* which is the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. It will prove quite interesting and will furnish needed material in the history of the counties of Alabama. Privately printed, $3.50, can be obtained from the author in Montgomery.

Huie, Wm. B. A graduate of the University of Alabama, is the author of *Mud in the Stars* with the scene placed in Alabama and which was used as basis for the movie *Wild River.*

Lidden, Eloise. *Some Lose their Way.* A native of Alabama places the scene in Mobile in the 1830's and 1840's. This book won the Thomas Jefferson Award for the outstanding Southern fiction.

Alabama School Librarians' Association. *A Design Manual for Building and Renovating School Libraries,* by four Alabama architectural firms assisted by Pauline Foster and Martha Jule Blackshear. Free to Alabama schools which anticipate a library building program. $1.00 to all others. Order from The Alabama School Librarians' Association, care of State Department of Education, Montgomery 4, Alabama.

Alabama Chapter, Special Libraries Association. *Union List of Health Science Periodicals Available in Selected Libraries in the State of Alabama,* edited by O. T. Chambers. $2.00. 96 pp. Over 900 titles are listed by the 25 participating libraries. Order from Miss Jane Finch, Secretary-Treasurer, Alabama Chapter, S.L.A., 514 Thorn Place, Montgomery, Alabama.

College, University, and Special Libraries Division, Alabama Library Association. *Ten Year Index, Alabama Librarian,* prepared by a committee chairmaned by Margaret Hughes. $1.00. Order from Mrs. Hughes, 1217 Greensboro Road, Birmingham 4, Alabama.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAM

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Programs for training school librarians began in Auburn's School of Education the Summer Quarter, June 13, 1960. They lead to certification for elementary, secondary, or twelve grade basis. Certain elements of the programs are common for all participants, but each program has distinguishing characteristics.

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Courses available are: Books and Related Materials for Children, Organization and Administration of School Libraries, Classification and Cataloging of School Library Materials, Audio-Visual Materials, Books and Related Materials for Young People, Practicum in School Library Services, Reference Materials and Service, Principles of School Librarianship, Problems in the Administration of the School Library Services, Library Services in the School and Community, Selection, and Use of Audio-Visual Materials.

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* * *

What Is Your Opinion?

Shall We Have Biennial Conventions With District Workshops During Alternate Years?

Martha Jule Blackshear, President, Alabama Library Association, appointed a Biennial Convention Study Committee to study the possibility of holding a biennial state wide meeting with district meetings on alternate years.

Such a pattern has several implications which the committee wishes to investigate. In an address at Mobile, Hoyt Galvin challenged the association's vitality which comes from a group of dedicated professional people working toward worthwhile goals. District workshops could be planned to provide a time for working together toward agreed upon goals.

There are other implications, advantages, and disadvantages to a change in pattern. The committee would like your thinking concerning the proposed changes. We plan to meet early in October. Please write or see any committee member before then. (See committees).

Sybil Baird

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Montgomery Branch Library New Building

Montgomery Branch Library, a branch of the Montgomery Public Library system, opened its new building with a dedication and reception May 8. Mrs. Bertha Williams, the Branch Librarian for twelve years, has two assistants and a janitor.

The building, Cleveland Avenue at Early Street, cost $72,000. It is modern and functional with a large reading room, an alcove for children, meeting room, librarian's office, workroom, rest rooms and utility rooms. It could house 15,000 volumes. There are 807 feet of covered porches and a 30 car parking lot enclosed by a brick wall.

James Miller Davis was the architect. Bear Brothers erected the building. Furniture and equipment are from Myrtle Desk, Brunswick School Furniture, and Estey Corporation.

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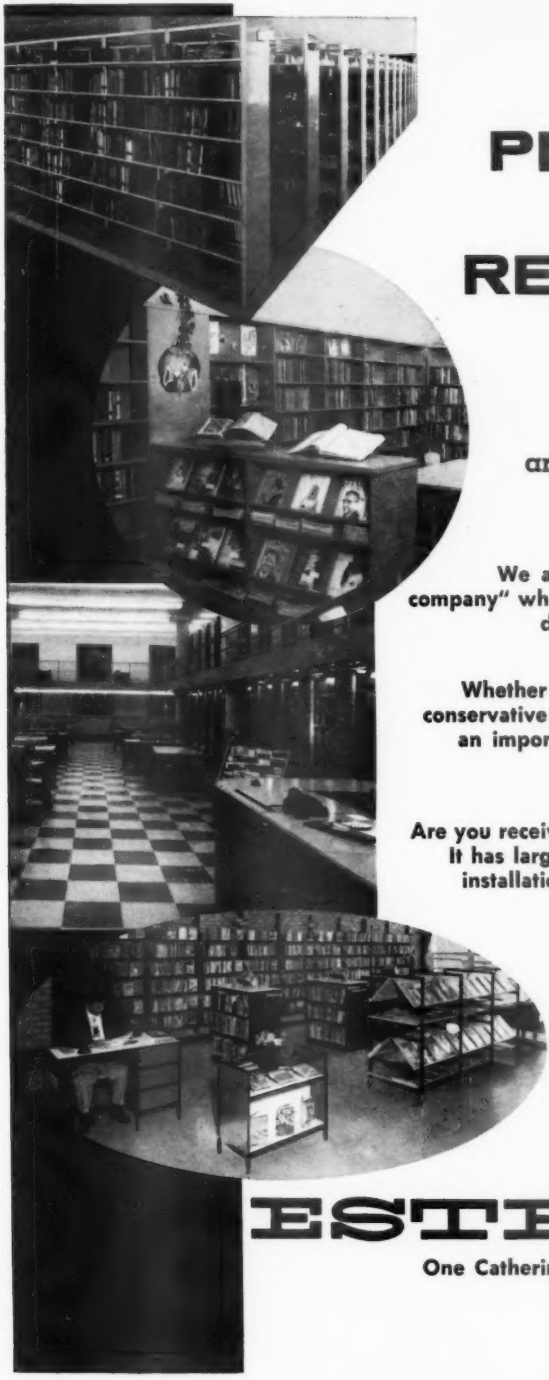

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